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APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: SEP 2003

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[REDACTED]

ATTRIBUTED THE WORSENING OF RELATIONS TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S ACTIVE INTEREST IN ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY THE GUATEMALAN ARMY OR SECURITY SERVICES. [REDACTED] RELATIONS REACHED THEIR LOWEST POINT IN RECENT YEARS AFTER THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ISSUED A TOURIST VISA TO SAN CARLOS UNIVERSITY STUDENT ACTIVIST MARITZA ((URRUTIA)) GARCIA ON 5 AUGUST. (FIELD COMMENT: URRUTIA WAS KIDNAPPED ON 23 JULY IN GUATEMALA CITY AND RELEASED SHORTLY THEREAFTER BY AN UNIDENTIFIED GROUP OF ARMED INDIVIDUALS. WHILE THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT IDENTIFIES URRUTIA AS A GUERRILLA SYMPATHIZER AND ACTIVIST AND DISAVOWS ANY KNOWLEDGE OR RESPONSIBILITY FOR HER KIDNAPPING, URRUTIA CLAIMS SHE WAS ABDUCTED BY MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES.)

2. [REDACTED] THAT A GUATEMALAN NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY UNION POLITICAL LEADER IN MEXICO, DR. LUIS FELIPE ((BECKER)) GUZMAN, WAS INTERESTED IN APPLYING OR MAY HAVE ALREADY APPLIED FOR A U.S. VISA. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] BECKER SUPPORTS TERRORISM, AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD CLEARLY BE HARBORING A TERRORIST IF HE WERE ISSUED A VISA AND PERMITTED TO ENTER THE U.S. REGARDING ANOTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION, SOME SENIOR GUATEMALAN ARMY OFFICERS BELIEVE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS SUPPORTING EFFORTS BY THE FAMILY OF MURDERED GUATEMALAN ANTHROPOLOGIST MYRNA ((MACK)) CHANG TO IMPLICATE OR IDENTIFY GUATEMALAN OFFICERS AS RESPONSIBLE FOR HER SEPTEMBER 1990 MURDER. [REDACTED] THAT THE MACK TRIAL WAS A WITCH HUNT AND THAT SECURITY FORCES NEITHER PLANNED NOR ORDERED THE ANTHROPOLOGIST'S MURDER.

3. [REDACTED] THAT SENIOR OFFICERS ARE FREQUENTLY ANGERED BY THE PERCEIVED ATTITUDE OF U.S. OFFICIALS THAT GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE ALWAYS GUILTY OF ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES EVEN BEFORE INVESTIGATIONS HAVE BEGUN. GUATEMALAN MILITARY OFFICERS VIEW AS LEFTIST PROPAGANDA MOST OF THE ACCUSATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WHICH COME FROM PERSONS AFFILIATED WITH POLITICAL FRONT GROUPS FOR GUERRILLA ORGANIZATIONS. THE OFFICERS CANNOT UNDERSTAND HOW THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS AT FACE VALUE SUCH CHARGES WHEN THE U.S. HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMBATED COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA AND PERSEVERED TO WIN THE COLD WAR. SENIOR OFFICERS ARE ANGRY THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO DENY MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE GUATEMALAN ARMED FORCES BECAUSE OF ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. THEY ALSO NOTE A GENERAL

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

TREND THAT NONMILITARY U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IS ERODING AND  
FORESEE LITTLE INCENTIVE TO ACCEPT ANY FUTURE U.S. GOVERNMENT  
PRESSURE TO INVESTIGATE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] THERE IS A GREAT  
DEAL OF DISCONTENT WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES, ESPECIALLY THE HIGH  
COMMAND, OVER THE DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND  
GUATEMALA. MOST SENIOR OFFICERS BELIEVE BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE AT  
THEIR LOWEST POINT IN 10 YEARS. THERE IS A PERCEPTION THAT THE U.S.  
IS UNJUSTLY CRITICIZING THE ARMED FORCES AND THAT THERE IS NO  
INCENTIVE FOR THE MILITARY TO SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS. IN ADDITION,  
THERE IS DISCONTENT WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES BECAUSE OF A PERCEPTION  
THAT, WHILE THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM HAS IMPROVED, THE ARMY IS UNDER  
GREATER ATTACK THAN BEFORE. THE ARMY CONTINUES TO BE CRITICIZED BY  
INTERNATIONAL GROUPS, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, AND GUATEMALAN OFFICIALS  
AND POLITICIANS. THERE IS A GENERAL BELIEF THAT VARIOUS SECTORS OF  
GUATEMALAN SOCIETY AND INTERNATIONAL GROUPS ARE TRYING TO DESTROY THE  
ARMY AS AN INSTITUTION. THERE ALSO ARE GROWING COMPLAINTS AMONG  
JUNIOR OFFICERS REGARDING THEIR LOW SALARIES IN COMPARISON TO THOSE  
OF GUATEMALAN CONGRESSMEN. MILITARY OFFICERS BELIEVE THIS IS  
UNJUSTIFIED GIVEN THAT THEY SACRIFICE THEIR LIVES ON A REGULAR BASIS  
WHILE CONGRESS IS CONCERNED WITH PERSONAL FINANCIAL GAIN. ACCORDING  
TO [REDACTED] THIS IS LEADING TO GROWING DISCONTENT WITH THE  
DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WITHIN THE MILITARY OFFICER CORPS. (FIELD

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

COMMENT: THE MEDIAN SALARY OF OFFICERS IS 1,800 QUETZALES PER MONTH, OR APPROXIMATELY U.S. \$360 AT THE CURRENT EXCHANGE RATE OF U.S. \$1 EQUALS ABOUT 5 QUETZALES. GUATEMALAN CONGRESSMEN EARN 17,000-18,000 QUETZALES PER MONTH, OR APPROXIMATELY U.S. \$3,400-\$3,600 AT THE CURRENT EXCHANGE RATE.)

[REDACTED]

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